



2020

VOTER'S GUIDE

US Senate

US House of Representatives

NC Governor

NC Attorney General

NC Treasurer

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction

NC Senate

NC House of Representatives

Wake County Board of Commissioners

Wake County Board of Education

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Cary Chamber of Commerce
307 N. Academy St., Cary, NC 27513
919.467.1016
CaryChamber.com

Overview

This guide provides information on the upcoming election that pertains to residents of Cary. The races covered in this guide are those for U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, North Carolina Governor, North Carolina Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, North Carolina Treasurer, North Carolina Senate, North Carolina House of Representatives, Wake County Commissioners and Wake County Board of Education. Please note that the candidates are listed in alphabetical order, and that the information for each candidate was provided by the candidate themselves. All candidates in each of the included races were invited to participate.

Important Notes

- Early voting begins on Thursday, October 15th, and ends on Saturday, October 31st; more information on early voting, such as schedules and locations can be found here: <http://www.wakegov.com/elections/info/early/Pages/default.aspx>
- Absentee ballots must be requested by October 27th and returned in person or postmarked by November 3rd.
 - To request an Absentee Ballot, fill out an official State Absentee Ballot Request Form, available for download at [NCSBE.gov](http://www.ncsbe.gov), or pick one up at your county board of elections office. The request form comes with detailed instructions and is available in Spanish. You may also contact your county board of elections and request that one be mailed to you.
- After the regular voter registration deadline of Friday, October 9, 2020, you can register and vote in person at one-stop sites during the early voting period, which runs from Thursday, October 15, 2020 to Saturday, October 31, 2020. This process is known as same-day registration. Same-day registrants must attest to their eligibility and provide proof of residence. Within two business days, the county board of elections will review the registration and the registrant's address. Your vote will be counted unless the county board of elections determines that you are not qualified to vote
- To check your voter information or view your absentee ballot, enter your information here: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>
- Election Day is November 3 and polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- For additional information that is not in this guide, such as your polling location, please go to the Wake County Board of Elections website – <http://www.wakegov.com/elections/Pages/default.aspx>

Early Voting Site in Cary

[Herbert C. Young Community Center](#)
101 Wilkinson Ave
Cary, NC 27513
More details [here](#).

[Cary Senior Center](#)
120 Maury O'Dell Pl.
Cary, NC 27513
More details [here](#).

For a full list of Wake County Early Voting Locations:
<http://www.wakegov.com/elections/info/early/Pages/default.aspx>

Candidates

Federal Races

United States Congress

Senate

House of Representatives District 2

Cal Cunningham

Jeff Mateu

Thom Tillis

Deborah Ross

Alan Swain

State Races

Governor

Roy Cooper

Steven DiFiore

Dan Forest

Al Pisano

Attorney General

Jim O'Neill

Josh Stein

NC Treasurer

Ronnie Chatterji

Dale Folwell

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jen Mangrum

Catherine Truitt

North Carolina Senate

District 15

Jay Chaudhuri

District 16

Will Marsh

District 17

Mark Cavaliero

Mario Lomusico

Wiley Nickel

Travis Groo

Kat McDonald

Sam Searcy

North Carolina House of Representatives

| <u>District 11</u> | <u>District 36</u> | <u>District 41</u> | <u>District 49</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Allison Dahle | Bruce Basson | Gale Adcock | Cynthia Ball |
| Clark Pope | Kim Coley | Guy Meilleur | Cap Hayes |
| Adrian Travers | Julie von Haefen | Scott Populorum | David Robertson |

County Races

Wake County Board of Commissioners

| <u>District 1</u> | <u>District 2</u> | <u>District 3</u> | <u>District 4</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sig Hutchinson | Matt Calabria | Maria Cervania | Susan Evans |
| Greg Jones | | Steve Hale | |
| <u>District 5</u> | | <u>District 6</u> | <u>District 7</u> |
| James West | | Shinica Thomas | Vickie Adamson |
| Karen Weathers | | Faruk Okcetin | |

Wake County Board of Education

| <u>District 7</u> | <u>District 8</u> | <u>District 9</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Chris Heagarty | Steve Bergstrom | Karen Carter |
| Rachel Mills | Lindsay Mahaffey | Bill Fletcher |

Federal Races

US Senate



Thom Tillis (R)
Email: info@thomtillis.com
Website: thomtillis.com

Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

As North Carolina's Senator, my top priority has been protecting the health and safety of North Carolinians during this pandemic and defeating COVID-19. I have secured nearly \$2 billion for North Carolina's hospitals and have worked across the aisle to support and improve the Paycheck Protection Program, which has helped save or maintain 1.2 million jobs.

Our economy was the strongest in our nation's history before COVID-19 hit, and I will continue to lead on pro-growth, pro-jobs policies to rebuild our economy. I've supported comprehensive tax reform as both Speaker of the House and U.S. Senator, and I will push for additional tax relief to help North Carolina families and small businesses rebound.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, I've worked across the aisle to ensure our servicemembers and veterans are taken care of. I'd led the successful effort to secure the three largest pay raises for our troops over the last decade, and I've led efforts to provide more choices to veterans to ensure they get timely and quality health care. I believe we must also support our local law enforcement back home, providing them with the funding and resources they need to keep our communities safe.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

PPPs are critical for bringing together local stakeholders and leveraging resources to foster regional economic development. Organizations like local chambers are essential for attracting new businesses and retaining existing businesses in the communities they serve. That's why I've continued to fight for relief funding for economic development

organizations throughout this pandemic and have partnered with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to advocate for resources. As a former business consultant, I know what you know: PPPs like chambers are going to be absolutely critical for the economic recovery once we're on the other side of the pandemic.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Combating COVID-19 has been an unprecedented crisis, but it shares similarities with how North Carolina has responded to hurricanes. We have to respond with our best understanding of the data at the time, but sometimes our information changes and we have to adapt accordingly. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 began, I've been working diligently to protect the physical and economic health of North Carolinians. I helped expedite testing for our state, secured nearly \$2 billion for North Carolina's healthcare providers, helped save more than one million jobs here in our state by championing the Paycheck Protection Program, and held 65 telephone town halls to keep constituents updated on the federal response to the pandemic. I've also laid out a detailed plan outlining how to keep North Carolinians safe, defeat COVID-19, and get us on the path to economic recovery.

I'm pushing for another federal stimulus bill that extends the Paycheck Protection Program, provides additional money for unemployment, and more resources for our health care providers and schools. I am also encouraged by the progress we are making on a safe and effective vaccine and believe that any vaccine made in the U.S. should go to Americans first before we ship it overseas, after our national investment in Operation WarpSpeed.

<https://www.tillis.senate.gov/services/files/14515261-EOEA-48A5-8924-584CFAB8AE34>

Cal Cunningham (D)

No information provided.

Federal Races

US House of Representatives | District 2



Jeff Matemu

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

criminal justice, immigration reform, student debt

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Providing an equal opportunity platform for growth for those willing to work at it.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Our response has been below expectations. We can do better.



Deborah Ross (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

As a state legislator, I've worked with both Democrats and Republicans to deliver for Wake County families, working to invest in infrastructure, passing bipartisan bills to help local families and small businesses, and finding common ground. In Congress, I'll continue fighting for affordable health care, prioritize relief and recovery that gets North Carolinians back to work, and protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. I'll put aside partisan bickering to focus on the fight for equality, justice, and progress for all.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

In the past three decades I've lived in Wake County, I've worked to build partnerships and broad coalitions to foster economic development that makes life easier for hardworking people. I've worked with local Chambers of Commerce, the Wake Education Partnership, and the RTA for decades. I regularly attend meetings of local partnerships and frequently have been a speaker on infrastructure and policy issues. I was honored to be named a Woman Business Leader of the Year in the Triangle Business Journal for my work in the community. From my early experience as a municipal bond attorney to my former position as General Counsel for GoTriangle, I know what it takes to fund the infrastructure we need for positive growth. With the coronavirus pandemic and accompanying recession, we need to work together to build our economy back better than before and get people back to work. The path to recovery is through investment in our workers, small businesses, and infrastructure. Infrastructure investments provide an opportunity to level the playing field and create good-paying jobs, and public-private partnerships will be a critical component.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

In addition to building and maintaining 21st Century infrastructure, we must have a strong and resilient healthcare system. We must work together to make healthcare more affordable and provide real relief for working families and small businesses. Health care costs are too high, and too many have lost health care coverage when the pandemic cost them their jobs. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how important it is that our leaders come together to negotiate in good faith and put people first. I have a history of bringing people together to get results, even people I don't agree with. In the state legislature, 92 percent of the bills I introduced became law because I've always been willing to come to the table and sort out differences to do what is best for North Carolina. I know we can come together to expand access to health care and make it more affordable, and I will work with anyone and everyone to get it done.

Alan Swain

No information provided.

State Races

NC Governor



Steven J. DiFiore (L)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. Promote Work Freedom. I will fight for your right to earn a living by ending crippling licensing fees and requirements that have nothing to do with health and safety. Occupational Licensing puts up barriers for people who want to earn an honest living and primarily serves entrenched business interests.
2. Fight for Medical Choice. We all deserve affordable healthcare options and I'll fight to remove laws, such as Certificates of Need (CON) that prevent skilled medical professionals from providing the care people need at prices working families can afford. The government shouldn't protect medical monopolies.
3. Privatize the N.C. Alcohol Beverage Control Commission. The N.C. ABC has been weaponized against bars, clubs, and small business owners who are trying to earn a living in difficult times. A private model would put the power back in the hands of business owners.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

There are many types of public/private partnerships and the best ones are aimed at reducing costs to the taxpayer, managing risk, and ensuring high quality returns to the public/users of a given project. To this end Demand Risk partnerships, which give a franchise to a private entity to build some piece of infrastructure, allows not only for the collection of revenue by the private entity but ensures proper management so that costs don't spiral out of control as the private partner has assumed the risk that revenue may not cover cost. Another type of partnership is seen in the Charter School model where private companies take responsibility for the administrative cost of running an educational institution. The best charters avoid the Availability Payment model and stick with the Demand Risk model as mentioned previously so that our private partners remain in keeping with the initial promise

of the charter to provide greater quality to the public. In North Carolina I support Demand Risk Partnerships and oppose Availability Payment Partnerships.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

It is easy to Monday morning quarterback with a disaster like COVID-19 or the devastation done by Hurricane Matthew for example. What is important is to stay flexible and not allow responses to disasters be politicized or have our response hamstrung by political considerations. Greater coordination with private organizations, such as the Liberty Coalition for Disaster Relief as an example, will allow for needed aid to reach those in need quickly while the gears of a government response get up to speed. In this way we can have individuals, volunteers, and charities get into hard hit areas first while the lumbering machine of government bureaucracy is still signing forms and getting proper approvals. Once the lumbering machine of government gets up to speed we see people get help, but the sad truth is that it does take more time than some people have for this to occur. By leveraging nimble private and volunteer organizations we can pick up the slack in disaster response so those in need get help immediately.



Dan Forest (R)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Creating jobs. With more than 1 million North Carolinians out of a job, we need to quickly get our state back to work and repair the damage to our economy. This is more important than just subsistence: So many of society's ills can be cured by a good job. We need to make sure that all parts of our state have the infrastructure needed to land job opportunities and that people have the training and skills needed to fill them. We also need to ensure we have a suitable vision for North Carolina to lead the way to opportunity.

State Races

NC Governor



Dan Forest (R)

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Putting students first. For too long, our education system has prioritized the system over the student. Parents know best what classroom setting works for their child, and we must protect school choice options so all students have access to a good education regardless of ZIP code. Right now, that includes reopening schools so every family has the option of in-person instruction.

Protecting law and order. The government's first priority should be the security of the people. We are watching murder rates climb in our major metropolitan areas. We must keep violent criminals off our streets and behind bars where they belong.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

The only way we are going to solve the education divide in our state is through public-private partnerships. Corporations want to play a role in assisting our public schools, but many times they are left out of the decision-making process. I have championed these partnerships as Lt. Governor, leading to several major initiatives becoming state law or policy.

For instance, every high school student will now have to pass a true economics and financial literacy course before they graduate. The only way we were able to get this through the General Assembly was by partnering with financial institutions around the state who not only pushed the legislature to pass this bill, but also provided nearly half the money needed to train teachers for the course. As Lt. Governor, I am also spearheading CS4NC, a computer science education public-private partnership. I look forward to fulfilling both of these partnerships as Governor.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Our state moves too slowly in rebuilding after an emergency, natural and man-made. In my administration, we will approach disaster response with speed and creativity to keep any North Carolina communities from being left behind.

To better respond to natural disasters, my N.C. Emergency Management department will be retooled to become nimble, creative and fast-moving. We will bring in new leadership and employ advisors with private and public sector experience in logistics and supply-chain management. Our communities cannot wait years after a disaster to get back on their feet.

But disaster response also includes fixing our state's broken unemployment system. We need new leadership, creativity, innovation, better technology and a significant culture change to move away from a system that thinks in terms of weeks and months to one that acts in terms of hours and days.

This year, COVID-19 has shown that our state needs its own strategic stockpile moving forward. In much the same way that our General Assembly has set aside over \$3 billion in a rainy day fund to provide financial assistance in a time of crisis or economic downturn, we must also create a system of stockpiling the physical goods and products we need in a time of natural or man-made disaster. North Carolina should be dependent on no one. No other state, no foreign country, and not our federal government.

Roy Cooper (D)

No information provided.

Al Pisano (C)

No information provided.

State Races

NC Attorney General



Josh Stein (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

As Attorney General, I am focusing on a variety of issues, but below are three that will always be at the top of my priority list.

Protecting North Carolina families: As Attorney General, my most important job has been protecting families from crime by prosecuting cases, handling criminal appeals, overseeing the State Crime Lab, assisting local law enforcement, and championing criminal justice reforms. I've targeted robocallers preying on vulnerable North Carolinians, fought to combat our state's opioid epidemic, worked to enact policies that will make our justice system fairer for communities of color, and led the effort to eliminate the backlog of untested sexual assault kits sitting on the shelves of local law enforcement across North Carolina. More recently, I have gone after price gougers and scammers who are trying to take advantage of vulnerable people during COVID.

Defending people's access to health care: Access to healthcare can be a matter of life and death and is absolutely crucial in the effort to build a stronger North Carolina. During my time in office, I have consistently fought to defend the Affordable Care Act, maintaining health insurance coverage for millions of North Carolinians. I was also the first state Attorney General in the country to sue the e-cigarette manufacturer JUUL, which I allege has aggressively targeted teenagers. I am helping to lead the fight against opioid addiction by holding accountable the drug companies that fueled the crisis. And at every opportunity, I advocate for our legislature to expand Medicaid to cover the 500,000 North Carolinians without insurance, strengthen struggling hospitals, create tens of thousands of jobs, and save lives.

Protecting our environment: As AG, I have protected North Carolina's amazing natural resources. On behalf of the Department of Environmental Quality, my office helped negotiate resolutions with Chemours over GenX and Duke Energy over coal ash to preserve water quality. And when the federal government has rolled back vital environmental protections like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, I have defended those laws so that the air we breathe and the water we drink are clean. I am also fighting to preserve our shores and the coastal economy that depends on them by opposing the federal government's efforts to put oil rigs off our coast.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

The coronavirus pandemic has thrown into stark relief the necessity of an increased public investment in our country's infrastructure, health care system, and postal service, among other areas. In areas in which the private sector has superior experience or knowledge, or when the government lacks the resources to adequately pursue a new project, it is vital to employ public/private partnerships so as to most effectively serve the people. For instance, the public investment and support used to further the creation of Research Triangle Park (RTP), the largest research park in the United States, is an obvious example of the potential success of public/private partnerships. We must encourage more endeavors like it, so we may continue to grow our region and state.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I believe that Gov. Cooper has handled the coronavirus crisis in the best way possible. There are no easy answers as to how to handle an unprecedented global pandemic, but particularly in light of the failure of the federal government to respond competently, Gov. Cooper has steered our state well through this crisis. He has been guided by science, not politics, consults with experts, and is steady and compassionate. Hindsight is 20-20, so, of course, there are different steps I may have taken if I knew then what we all know now. But I hope I would have responded as quickly, diligently, and effectively as

State Races

NC Attorney General



Josh Stein (D)

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Continued..

the Governor did.

It is also worth saying that no elected official can be successful with input from and the support of stakeholders. I need to hear from all types of people regularly to advocate for them as best I can. Particularly given the uncertain business climate caused by the COVID pandemic, it is vital that elected officials engage regularly with members of the business community. I have and will continue to do so.

Jim O'Neill (R)

No information provided.

NC Treasurer



Ronnie Chatterji (D)

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Website: ronniechatterji.com

Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. Restore fiscal responsibility to our state pension fund, which has lost billions of dollars due to mismanagement. 2. Expand Medicaid and reform the State Health Plan to ensure access to affordable and high quality care. 3. Invest in infrastructure to connect people, ideas, and opportunity in North Carolina.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

These partnerships can be incredibly valuable when they leverage the unique capabilities of the public and private sectors. Keys to success include proper governance, clear outcome metrics and transparency. There are many opportunities to leverage PPPs in our state. For example, we should explore a public private partnership to help small businesses recover from the economic downturn caused by the global pandemic.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

There was no coordinated federal response to this pandemic, leaving states to develop their own plans without adequate resources. To defeat COVID and jumpstart our economy, we need leaders who tell the truth, rely on scientific data, and listen to medical experts.

State Races

NC Treasurer



Dale R. Folwell (R)

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Website: [Https://dalefolwell.com](https://dalefolwell.com)

Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. As keeper of the “public purse” to be LOYAL to those that teach, protect and serve at the state/local levels and taxpayers like them and to continue attacking problems, not people.
2. Sustain the state retirement and healthplan for this and the next generation of public service workers. Public servants don’t call us to book a cruise: they call because of life changing events, some blessings and some not.
3. Maintain NC’s strong and internationally recognized AAA credit rating and cement our reputation for being the most transparent and accessible public office in NC. After all, it’s YOUR money; not Wall Streets, big healthcare/drug companies.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

I think their function is vital, but not transparent enough. When these partnerships don’t “perk”, it’s sometimes determined that the deal was “priced” for perfection and the profits were to be privatized and the losses socialized.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we’ve responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Our response has been too secretive, inconsistent and not based on vetted assumptions that have enormous unintended consequences. The idea that one size fits all has created an economic inequality NEVER before seen in NC. As a member of the Council of State, I can certify that the 10 elected leaders have met less than 5 hours on the subject of flattening the economic curve since St. Patricks Day. I would have had “toothbrush” meetings; which

means cancel everything else and be prepared to meet in person until the job is done. North Carolinians are facing the highest levels of food, job, health and now educational insecurity and don’t give a damn what political party you are a member of. They just want their problems solved and a focus on flattening the health AND economic curve. Generations of business owners in NC have permanently lost their joy of achievement and upward mobility in 6 months.

State Races

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction



Jen Mangrum (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

My top three priorities will improve our public schools and ensure that every child flourishes. I intend to 1) expand equity across school districts using the WestEd report as a roadmap for supports, resources and school funding, 2) professionalize careers in education, which includes advocating for improved salary and working conditions, and 3) provide a healthy and safe school environment that meets the needs of our students' academic, social, emotional and physical well-being.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Transparent and accountable public/private partnerships are helpful in that they often reduce costs and allow for shared risk. The Wake Ed Partnership, in particular with its SummerSTEM program and FAST initiative, is very beneficial because we all know that a community's success depends upon our high quality schools. I co-founded the UNCG STEM Teacher Leader Collaborative in partnership with the Cemala Foundation and Duke Energy so I know firsthand how beneficial these partnerships have continued to be for us.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Governor Cooper has carefully led the way for North Carolina through this pandemic, but the current State Superintendent has been MIA. I have a thorough reopening plan on my website, which describes the Superintendent's responsibilities as well as the NC General Assembly and the State Board of Education in providing guidance, planning and funding. The NC

Constitution is clear that it is the state's responsibility to provide each child with a sound, basic education and they are not exempt during the time of crisis. The unfortunate reality is that this pandemic is going to negatively impact a large proportion of students. Despite the heroic efforts of educators across the state, we all know that remote learning is not as effective as in-person learning. Students thrive when we create well-resourced, integrated school communities that provide all children with equal opportunities to flourish. More specifically, that means requiring that the NCGA meet their obligation of increasing and modifying the distribution of funds to make sure schools have the resources necessary to meet their students' needs.

State Races

NC Superintendent of Public Instruction



Catherine Truitt (R)

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Website: <https://www.catherinetruitt.com>

Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. Collaborate with the State Board of Education and the legislature to enact the best policy recommendations that ensure equitable funding and resources for our most vulnerable students.
2. Overhaul our school accountability and testing system so that it is student-centered, reflective of the work that teachers do to grow their students, and relevant to parents.
3. Launch a statewide literacy campaign centered around the Science of Reading that will strive to end the state's decades-long inability to ensure all students can read proficiently.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

For me, the answer to question involves the role of leadership. What does good leadership look like when there are many stakeholders?

We are at a crossroads in public K-12 education--one that has been accelerated by COVID-19. Public/private partnerships are going to be key as education begins to pivot to new ways of doing things. We are stronger when we work together and public education needs the input of the private sector as well as advocacy organizations. One of my biggest strengths is the ability to engage people in a way that allows for collaboration and compromise such that multiple voices are heard. Education is about relationships with both young people and adults and requires a growth mindset to innovate and solve our challenges.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

As of September 15, the General Assembly and the Governor have allocated \$838.5 million to COVID-19 relief in K-12 public schools. The legislature must continue to work very closely with the Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education to ensure that schools' needs are identified and funded appropriately. Because it is likely that we will need additional dollars in the future, we must maintain a close and continuing dialogue with state and federal leaders so that we are working towards solving these yet-unknown funding challenges.

Plan A should have been on the table for districts as soon as July 2020. The state should require local districts to offer a choice of in-person or remote instruction to accommodate those teachers and families who cannot safely return to the classroom. All districts should follow healthy/safety guidance provided by DHHS when reopening for full-time in person instruction, including masking and social distancing recommendations.

State Races

NC Senate | District 15



Jay Chaudhuri (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

First, we must stop the virus so we can restart the economy. That means we must expand Medicaid so everyone can afford testing and treatment for the virus. Second, we must support our frontline workers and small businesses hit by the pandemic. Finally, we must prepare our state to grow and expand opportunity by focusing on strong public schools.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

A public-private partnership is critical in making sure that we have buy-in from diverse stakeholders in the areas of economic development, education, and transit. I also believe that diversity of thought and perspective generates the best ideas and decisions.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

There has been bipartisan support in making sure we respond to disasters in a quick and appropriate manner. However, I still believe that working in partnership with the federal government we can still find better and more effective ways to support families and small businesses impacted by disasters.

Mario Lomuscio (R)

No information provided.

Kat McDonald (L)

No information provided.

State Races

NC Senate | District 16



Wiley Nickel (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Making long overdue and needed investment public education, finally passing Medicaid Expansion, and putting an end to partisan gerrymandering in North Carolina.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

I think public/private partnerships are great ways for business and government to work together to achieve common goals.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Governor Cooper has done his best to keep North Carolina safe. Had the General Assembly had given the administration the support it needed early on during the pandemic, the state likely could have weathered the crisis better. We need legislators that are ready and willing to respond to help their communities in times of need. Unfortunately, the currently legislative leadership's hands-off approach has hindered our state's response to the virus.

Will Marsh (R)

No information provided.

State Races

NC Senate | District 17



Mark Cavaliero (R)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. Reviving a strong economy
2. Driving down the cost of healthcare
3. Providing our children with the opportunity for a world class education

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/Private partnerships allow government and private sectors to work together to accomplish goals that are in the best interests of the community. I believe they are critical to improving the long-term quality of life, sustainable growth, and economic viability of our region. As with any partnership, clearly delineating the goals, financial expectations, responsibilities, and then facilitating ongoing progress reviews provides the environment of open communication and accountability that leads to success.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

As someone who has led organizations through times of crisis, I understand the enormous responsibility of weighing the information available and making decisions that impact peoples lives, businesses, and careers. Looking back with the benefit of hindsight, it's clear that our preparations for this scenario as well as our communication and data sharing could have been better. In the Marines, we had plans for various emergency scenarios, and we knew exactly what our approach would be when the time came. Scenarios and plans for large scale operations were researched, documented, and updated continually down to individual personnel and equipment

assignments. Roles and responsibilities were practiced, milestones and targets defined, and data flowed freely to stakeholders. I would have loved to see a more bi-partisan approach to the crisis, with leaders from both parties meeting, discussing courses of action, and then jointly issuing an operational plan. Going forward, we need to make sure our healthcare system is prepared to surge and handle the next such event. I'd like to see every citizen in North Carolina have health insurance that is affordable and includes preventive care. Somehow, we've also got to rebuild the trust between our leaders so that during times of emergency, they can come together and get the job done."



Travis Groo (L)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

- (1). Greater education opportunities
- (2). More consumer choices
- (3). Expanding housing affordability

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

To find the best solutions and work together, both public and private, for the benefit of the citizens of the city.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I feel that Cary has done a good job.

State Races

NC Senate | District 17



Sam Searcy (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

The first is helping our state recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. That means helping those who've lost their jobs stay afloat while our economy recovers and helping our local small businesses make sure they have what they need to survive. Second, we need to ensure that every North Carolinian has access to health care, and we begin that by expanding Medicaid. This would help hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, create thousands of new jobs, and help keep rural hospitals open. Third, we must reinvest in our schools. We need to raise per pupil spending and teacher pay to at least the national average.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/private partnerships are vital. Combining the expertise of the private sector and the resources of the public sector can be the best way to accomplish important goals in North Carolina. One area I believe we should be looking at for a partnership is expanding rural broadband, to ensure that everyone in North Carolina has access to reliable internet. As a business owner and a state Senator, I know how important it is that public and private sectors work together whenever possible and I look forward to continuing doing that when I'm re-elected.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Governor Cooper has done a good job in an unprecedented situation and made his decisions based on science and the advice of medical professionals, and that's how we should deal with challenges like this. In the future, we need to listen

to the experts to help us come to the best decisions and leave the politics out of the process. sure our healthcare system is prepared to surge and handle the next such event. I'd like to see every citizen in North Carolina have health insurance that is affordable and includes preventive care. Somehow, we've also got to rebuild the trust between our leaders so that during times of emergency, they can come together and get the job done.

State Races

NC House of Representatives | District 11



Allison Dahle (D)

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Clark Pope (R)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Equity for all Citizens, funding public education, Public transportation

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

To work together and inform government to ensure the goals of the people are heard. We cannot always agree but we all need to be heard. I want to hear from these partners to make sure we are providing the best foundation for the people of Wake County and beyond.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I am proud of the response of our State and will continue to support the guidance shown by Governor Cooper and Dr. Mandy Cohen of DHHS.

Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Political reform to promote a true citizen legislature, Healthcare reform to drive down prices, and Education reform to emphasize performance, choice, and vocational training.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Primarily to accomplish goals that would be impractical or cost prohibitive for the government to achieve alone, e.g. the state has no telecommunications equipment. We can't solve problems like rural internet access without partnering with private sector telecom companies.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

The NC data shows that covid deaths have been nearly flat over the last 5 months (around 20-30/day) despite a wide range in government restrictions. The lack of correlation shows that the deaths aren't coming from the population that frequent nail salons, bars, gyms, etc. and the state response that destroyed many of these businesses did not save any lives. In retrospect, it would have been better to focus our efforts on protecting the vulnerable in communal living while promoting masks, distance, and sanitation for everyone else.

State Races

NC House of Representatives | District 11



Adrian Travers (L)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

School Choice, Housing Affordability, and privatizing the sale of liquor

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

It's incredibly important to listen and hear the voices of the entrepreneurs, the teachers of our next generation, and from the folks who take us where we need to go to get things done. They provide the goods and services that make our community successful. We, as government officials, should do everything within our power to simply let them do what they do best, and not stifle progress. The more that government gets out of the way of business growth and education, the more the community thrives through the spirit of American independence.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I cannot speak to my personal experience in this area, as I've yet to have been impacted by any disasters that required government relief. However, I've heard plenty of stories from disaster relief workers at my hotel bar who've told me of their grueling work and frustration with providing relief and assistance. My thoughts and prayers goes out to everyone who's part of the "boots on the ground" effort to help pick up the pieces in the wake of such horrific events. No system is perfect, and we can only strive for a more perfect system. My background is in the area of being a server who operates in excellence, and things like this truly tug at my heartstrings. We've done good, but we should strive for better and faster results in the field, and as a fiscal conservative, wasteful

spending and fraud detection needs to tighten up as well. We're responsible for proper spending of our taxpayers' hard-earned money, so let's make sure we're doing that correctly.

State Races

NC House of Representatives | District 36



Kim Coley (R)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. Economic Growth: Lowering the Tax Burden on our citizens increases prosperity and economic growth. Conservative policies allow local businesses to flourish, but legislation needs to help by decreasing burdensome regulations or licensing on businesses. 2. Educational Choice: Temporary government should not make permanent choices for OUR children. 3. Pro-Life: The current governor administration and democrat members of the General Assembly veto of the "Born Alive Bill defied the will of the people. Leadership means valuing the lives of our most vulnerable, those that can't speak for themselves. I am proudly Pro-Life.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

I value the functioning role of public/private partnerships. I believe if the partnership is stewarded well it brings out the best in our commerce. Aiming for the best commerce builds confidence in the people and confident people sow back into a strong economy, which strengthens the partnerships. I also feel these partnerships offer healthy competition, accountability, and competitive opportunity, while the public renders the verdict. When the public is offered a choice of service, education, or connection those participating in these public/private partnerships act like the fertilizer, (a dressing to aid the production of crops), allowing those businesses rooted within the partnerships to flourish. Now more than ever, North Carolina needs a thriving environment. We need strong public/private partnerships to reestablish confidence in government, small business growth, and our society as a whole. Wake County deserves to excel. I have lived in House District 36 for 26 years. I have benefited from the partnerships within our

community through many different entities. I hope to make Wake County the envy of the rest of the state as I work to strengthen those alliances already established while facilitating opportunities for new ones to join. I would like the next generation of families to have the same, no more, opportunities I was gifted by living here.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

These are unprecedented times. I am grateful for a substantial rainy day fund, prepared by a conservative-led House. These funds were set aside for the disasters we knew would come to our door. Covid-19 was unexpected. Would have done things differently regarding the governing of our state? Anyone can look back and make adjustments on "what-has-been". All I can ask of others is their willingness to do is one's best during times of circumstances. I do feel the Governor did his best in March by closing North Carolina but missed his opportunity to gain wisdom from his own Counsel of State, allowing NC to open sooner, at least in parts of the state. I believe the citizens and private businesses suffered unnecessarily when many issues seemed to be driven politically rather than by the Constitution of North Carolina.

I look forward to working with my fellow colleagues, tightening up the budget, securing once again a savings account for the state while reducing needless burdensome regulation. I want us to be the First in Flight as we soar to new heights economically.

State Races

NC House of Representatives | District 36



Julie von Haefen (D)
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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

First, the General Assembly needs to restore respect and dignity to the teaching profession in North Carolina by increasing teacher pay, restoring advanced degree pay, and ending pay incentives based on test scores. Additionally, we must immediately align our school funding model with the Leandro court decision and fulfill our constitutional obligation to provide all children in North Carolina with a sound basic education.

Second, North Carolina also needs to bring our federal tax dollars home and expand Medicaid. Stroke and heart disease are preventable with treatment but are still leading killers in our state. Expanding Medicaid would save lives by providing access to preventative healthcare to people across NC.

Finally, we need to end gerrymandering in North Carolina. it is time for the General Assembly to establish an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission. Representatives should no longer have any part in drawing their own districts.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public-private partnerships are proven to help facilitate important investments in infrastructure and services in our communities. I was proud to serve on the board of the Wake Education Partnership while I was Wake County PTA Council President. I saw firsthand how this successful organization has helped our teachers and students succeed through its grant programs and summer STEM programs. WakeEd Partnership has also helped prepare our students for opportunities in our local workforce after graduation. I believe that new partnerships

similar to this could benefit our state by growing our transportation network, expanding access to broadband and much more.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I'm proud to have voted for legislation to provide millions of dollars in COVID-19 relief for small businesses by funding the NC Rapid Recovery Loan Program and supporting the Department of Commerce in establishing the Economic Investment Committee's Job Retention grant program. I'm also glad that our General Assembly passed multiple, bipartisan COVID-19 relief packages to make PPE more available to frontline health care workers, make testing more readily available, and funding research to develop a vaccine.

However, I am concerned that our body was not allowed to take up legislation to increase the cap on unemployment benefits or to provide mortgage and rental assistance to families that are struggling. These steps would ensure that people who've lost their jobs are not forced to go back to work in unsafe conditions and that they also have a fighting chance to pay their bills and avoid foreclosure during the pandemic.

Additionally, childcare centers in NC are struggling with additional costs and decreasing enrollment due to the pandemic. Without a robust childcare system, our economy can not recover. I believe the General Assembly should have provided additional funding to child care centers to allow them to remain open and keep their workers and children safe.

Bruce Basson (L)

No information provided.

State Races

NC House of Representatives | District 41



Gale Adcock (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Health care access, public education funding, broadband expansion

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

These groups make our communities more vibrant. They help current businesses grow and are a driver in attracting new business development. They give back to their communities financially through grants and services. They are important partners for local governments and pivotal to a strong and growing economy.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

North Carolina has been wise to use scientific data to make decisions to protect citizens, slow viral spread and preserve hospital capacity for the severely ill. In retrospect we should have guaranteed an adequate state stockpile of PPE and the Governor should have issued the initial stay at home order a couple weeks earlier to get even more ahead of the virus. Past legislatures should have adequately invested in public health infrastructure. If NC had expanded Medicaid in 2013 we would fewer at-risk populations with significant health disparities, resulting in a higher incidence of coronavirus infection, more severe illness, a higher rate of hospitalization and deaths among the uninsured.

Guy Meilleur (L)

No information provided.

Scott Populorum (R)

No information provided.

State Races

NC House of Representatives | District 49



Cynthia Ball (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Ensure/invest in a sound basic education for all North Carolinians. Invest in universal pre-K. Ensure affordable higher education options for all residents at our state universities and community colleges, to prepare them for the jobs of the future.

Expand Medicaid and the access to affordable healthcare across the state.

Create a representative and responsive legislative body by establishing an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission; making our legislative process more transparent to the public; by policy and funding, ensuring that all eligible voters can cast a legal ballot that is counted; and requiring more transparency and limitations on the infusion of donations into campaigns.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Especially in these times of public health challenges and increased partisanship and division in our society, it is even more critical that we form partnerships and alliances to pull together human, community, and financial capital, from both the public and private sectors. As a mediator, I am committed to working to find common ground to address the complex challenges we face. The involvement of business and community leaders in outstanding organizations like our Chambers of Commerce, the Wake Education Partnership and the Regional Transportation Alliance will be central to finding solutions that include comprehensive input and attract broad community acceptance. A good example of a collaborative project is the WakeEd Partnership's initiative, Families and Schools Together (FAST), that supports working families during the pandemic.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

These are certainly unprecedeted times - with an unparalleled strain on our healthcare and educational systems, economic development progress, community stability, and family wellbeing. The inequities that already existed have been laid bare, with an even greater intensity. I have supported the pandemic response taken by our leaders at the state and local levels, who have tried to find a very difficult balance between protecting the public health of our citizens and keeping our businesses and people financially stable and our children receiving the best possible education, given the challenges of virtual learning. I feel that we could have done more from the NCGA by allocating our CARES funds and other budgeted resources differently, directing more funds to helping our local communities, small businesses, public schools, working families, and those who are truly suffering. I do regret that some issues that should not be political have been caught up in a partisan divide, to the detriment of our being able to work together for the common good. As mentioned in my answer to the previous question, we simply must find ways to put partisanship aside. The improved quality of life in our communities like Cary depends on strong leadership and collaborative partnerships as we work to build a state that works for ALL.

Cap Hayes (L)

No information provided.

David Robertson (R)

No information provided.

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 1



Sig Hutchinson (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Since I took office, I have been working to create safe, healthy communities where all can thrive. My focus has been on addressing the social determinants of health. These include, but are not limited to, affordable housing, transportation options, a living wage, access to health care, safe communities, and healthy food options.

The two most costly determinants are housing and transportation. To that end, I have chaired an initiative called Live Well Wake. The other determinant that government can significantly impact is the availability of meaningful employment with a living wage.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/private partnerships are essential to the growth and betterment of Wake County. As an elected official, I value these organizations and the input, resources, advocacy, knowledge, and leadership they provide.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

The Emergency Operations Center has been open since March providing information and resources to all our residents. Wake County is providing free COVID testing at multiple sites. We have a food distribution network for those experiencing food insecurity, with more than 3.4 million meals have been delivered to struggling families.

We also have programs to help with rent or

mortgage payments and utility bills. The County has opened a "Healthy Hotel" to care for 160 homeless residence. In addition to shelter, residents are supported by a case manager and provided meals, medication and transportation. Twenty of these families have moved into more permanent housing, making room to help additional families.

The Wake County Commissioners have put \$5M toward a small business loan program called Wake Forward and are working with our municipal, state, and federal partners to provide even more resources as it becomes available.



Greg Jones (R)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Public safety, identifying and eliminating wasteful spending, reducing the County debt in an effort to lower property taxes

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/private partnerships are essential and I look forward to doing my part in participating with the various groups.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

In my opinion the County commissioners went to far by shutting down the whole County during the Covid crisis. I understand that it was a very difficult decision to make considering all of the unknown facts about the affects of the virus however, people from all over the US and other adjoining counties

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 1



Greg Jones (R)

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were still able to enter our county without restrictions. The statewide and county shutdown has destroyed our quality of life and has completely ruined multiple businesses in Wake County not to mention the lifelong impacts it will have on our elementary school students. The pandemic outbreak also exposed how investing too much in public entities such as bussing, commuter rail, and other modes of public transportation is vulnerable to shutting down when a crisis occurs of any type. Another concern is our county debt and the interest spent on our county debt. A county the size of Wake County should be mostly debt free considering the revenue it takes in and should have a large rainy day fund in place to head off such disasters without relying on the state and federal governments to shore up our county. In regards to what I would have done differently, I would have requested the County Commissioners to assemble a team of infectious disease specialist from Wake Med, Duke Med, and UNC Rex Healthcare to obtain the best information possible on how to deal with the Covid virus prior to shutting down the whole county. The specialized healthcare team along with our public safety leaders, DHHS, county business leaders and the Board of Commissioners could then present the best strategic plan of action to ensure the overall best outcome for the citizens of Wake County. Much was learned by this recent pandemic and I fully trust that our EMS and Healthcare providers have learned and documented a lot of information that will better prepare them for pandemic outbreaks in the future. I personally prayed for GOD to end the pandemic and to extend his grace to our citizens.

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 2



Matt Calabria (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

First, Wake County must continue to increase its support for public education. In my first two terms as a commissioner, I have worked to expand county support for public education, which has included raising local teacher pay to the highest in the state and improving our school-to-nurse ratio. I have also been one of the county's leading champions for combating childhood hunger. I hope to build on these efforts next term.

Second, the Commission should continue expanding affordable housing options. This includes not just increasing our affordable housing stock but working with municipalities to enact forward-thinking planning and zoning ordinances.

Third, Wake County should better address economic development and economic mobility. It will continue to be important for us to grow in a way that prioritizes transportation, preserves open space, explores worker training opportunities, and develops vibrant downtowns.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public-private partnerships can be an efficient and effective way of achieving community goals. As a commissioner, I have worked collaboratively with numerous nonprofits and other organizations to engage in economic development work, plan for our growth, and deliver important services to our citizens. Of course, it is important for me as an elected representative to ensure that each partnership is the most appropriate and cost-effective means of achieving a particular goal. Nonetheless, my experience has confirmed that public-private partnerships can be an important way of utilizing the community's energy and expertise to tackle the

challenges before us.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Wake County has done an excellent job of responding to the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, we have seen much better infection and mortality numbers than in many similar regions. I believe that, by and large, we have worked in an efficient, thoughtful, and science-driven way to enact (and repeal) regulations as appropriate; provide housing, food, economic, and utility assistance; provide free testing opportunities, and distribute PPE to those who need it. I have also successfully advocated for programs that provide financial relief to local small businesses, our arts and tourism industries, and others. Wake County should continue to engage in data-driven decision-making that prioritizes public health while encouraging a rapid and robust economic recovery.

Hopefully we will not experience another pandemic, but were we to do it over again, I would look to provide various services and other relief more swiftly. I would also expand our economic support programs to more fully include local nonprofits (and am currently advocating for doing so with remaining CARES Act funds).

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 3



Maria Cervania (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

PROTECTING WAKE COUNTY FROM COVID-19 and IMPROVING OUR HEALTH

I did my graduate work in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and worked in planning and crisis management during the HIV/AIDS Epidemic and the H1N1/Avian Flu Pandemic. I commit to:

- Optimize our COVID-19 response to accelerate recovery especially in hard hit areas.
- Address the barriers that limit access to health care, and support residents who experience health challenges especially in crisis services and substance abuse treatment.

BALANCING OUR COUNTY'S NEEDS WITH THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

As a technical consultant to governments during the economic downturns of 2001 and the Great Recession, I led projects that saved millions of taxpayer dollars while saving jobs and enhancing quality of service. I commit to:

- Identify operational redundancies and efficiencies; and strive for cost-conscious budgets.
- Increase transparency and accountability to ensure that our tax dollars are effectively allocated.

PLEDGING TO THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF LIFE

I have and continue to advocate for:

- Fully fund Public Education.
- Environmental protection; sustainability, and parks, open space, and greenways.
- Affordable housing; Wake County Transit Plan, and balanced growth.
- Equity for All and prioritizing trust and respect for all people's safety in Wake County.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

To fulfill some of the goals Wake County has regarding public transportation, smart growth, tourism and, overall, being a global leader, public/private partnerships may be the opportunity for the community to finish a project sooner or have a concept become a doable reality.

Public/private partnerships may allow large-scale government projects, such as a public transit system, hospital, school building or entertainment/sports facility to be completed with private funding. Private sector technology and innovation can advance the operational efficiency of providing public services. I have personally seen the success of collaboration/partnership working with major corporations and local companies on Child and Adult Protective Services Reform.

As with every business venture, there can be major risk. If elected, it would be my focus to work with our Wake County government staff to assure detailed oversight and contracting, and most importantly, dedicated partnership.

Our private partners must meet safety or other relevant quality standards outlined in their contracts: no cutting corners, no substandard service, or no violation of peoples' civil or Constitutional rights. There must be accountability and transparency to the Wake County residents.

In my experience, what I have found as most significant to achieve success in a public/private partnership is the partnership. In the professional relationship, each party must be as committed to achieving the others' goals as they are to their own.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

During this unprecedented public health emergency and the aftermath of an economic and budgetary struggle, Wake County has been committed to strong intergovernmental cooperation to mitigate COVID-19 and its pervasive impacts.

Where the Federal and State provided financial and resource support, Wake County is on the front lines

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 3



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protecting our communities from the pandemic. It has worked well with the local healthcare systems, has operated the local public health department (which are the ground troops in the fight especially in outreach, testing and contact tracing), and has served the health needs of all the county's residents as best as it can.

We still need to do more going forward.

In my 20+ year professional experience in Public Health, the following points are what I would supplement to the current efforts. Additional steps should be done to prepare for the future considering we still do not have a downward progression in COVID-19. We must:

Act from the Lessons we have Learned

Our county has learned a great deal in the past few months on how to deal with this pandemic. During other Federal administrations, there was much more support provided during disasters and pandemics. This time we had to go at it alone. Although not ideal, we are learning how best to do it considering the situation.

Invest in Public Health

The 2021 Wake County Budget allocation to Human Services and Public Health will not be sufficient to get us out of this pandemic, prepare us for potential crisis in the future or address the health disparities that are worsened by COVID-19. We must invest more in our county's health and well-being.

Have a Plan

Wake County and the municipalities within our county must develop Pandemic Preparedness Plans. Implementation must include working in unison.

Communication

Within Pandemic Preparedness Plans, communication to people in the community is key. Information provided regularly and often helps so

much in protecting ourselves, our family, and our friends, and provides reassurance that all things are being done to work toward the health of our community.

We must make sure we elect representatives who understand, prioritize and continue in this commitment.

Steve Hale (R)

No information provided.

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 4



Susan Evans (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

I look forward to continuing to support a strong public school system with adequate local funding, continuing to expand the supply of affordable housing and supports for those facing homelessness and working with Wake Tech and other partners to strengthen workforce development.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/Private partnerships are key to improving awareness and understanding of issues public agencies are overseeing and helping to create buy-in for big steps forward such as expanding transit. Working with our Chamber of commerce partners in areas of economic development provides necessary input from the business community. Some of these private groups help with connecting volunteers for our public schools and assist with public engagement for successful voter-approved bond offerings. Some provide a vehicle for monetary donations to assist the public work. I truly value the constructive relationships that I've developed with our private partners and look forward to further good work together.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I am quite proud of Wake County's response to the demands of the pandemic. At the outset, our Board and staff worked with all Wake County municipal leaders to develop parameters for stay-at-home orders with consensus to mitigate the spread. Our County manager and staff pulled together a sophisticated emergency response center that has been staffed around the clock to guide our residents

with their health issues and any questions regarding good practices. Once our schools were closed we immediately worked with the school system and other partners to make food available to our most vulnerable students. We have provided assistance to those facing evictions and put together a program to move homeless people with high risk health issues to vacant hotels and worked with partners to find housing and other support services. The county made free testing widely available to our residents as soon as the test kits were readily available. The Commissioners approved funding to support local small businesses affected by the shut down with interest deferred loans. This was not the year our board or our staff had envisioned but we have been thoughtful and nimble in our approach.

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 7



Vickie Adamson (D)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Continued strong Public Health Response to COVID, Better Funding for our Wake County Public Schools and Expanding Human Services for our most vulnerable citizens focusing on Children.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

With Wake County having over 1.1 million residents it is important for citizens to have representative organizations that we can partner with for policy and programs development. Wake County has numerous successful programs that have resulted from public/private partnerships from apprenticeships, small business development, mark I think this is it that this is better looking than a witness was done and all who have a REL enough and educational programs to public transportation. I value the input of our partner organizations.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I could write a thesis on what we did right and what I would do differently. Since there has never been a pandemic in our lifetimes, we did not have a playbook to follow. We have had a very strong Public Health response which has saved lives and prevented citizens from catching COVID. This is due to prioritizing Public Health in past budgets. What I would have done differently is plan for the long term. When we had our first case on March 3rd we thought we could contain the spread. It took a few months to realize we were going to be living with COVID for years.



Faruk Okcetin (R)

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

Preservation of public safety and the wonderful qualities of Wake County! Efficiency for a more responsible and accountable County Government! Prosperity through calculated growth and sound economic decisions!

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/Private partnerships are essential to the structured growth of any successful community. However, it takes effort to cultivate, and maintain such partnerships, and it takes effective leadership who is able to recruit interest and bridge any divides that may exist. I am committed to doing just that, because I recognize such partnerships serve as a great way to ensure the community has access to resources it needs to continue to thrive. These roles are often to raise awareness of issues, or potential issues, support the placement of financial and other resources in the right places to advance various causes, and to ensure that government's role is managed and proportional to the needs of the community.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

I believe the one size fits all solutions have been disastrous for thousands of families as well as our County, from an economic perspective. We are sure to face other calamities and cannot weather other ones, if we are going to react to them, as we have Covid. I have already prepared a proposed Wake County Pandemic Response Action Plan, which identifies the exact process we should take, and would empower our citizens to be a part of the

County Races

Wake County Commission | District 7



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solution, rather than being treated like they are the problem. Looking at the fact that more than 50% of our deaths have come from nursing homes and congregate living facilities also tells me that isolation by itself does not work and that we must approach our elderly and their needs differently. I believe a method of identifying and supporting those at highest risk, and working to protect them, while supporting our business community, would have saved lives, and not hurt our economy as bad as the arbitrary and extended nature of the shut downs, have been unable to do.

County Races

Wake County Board of Education | District 7



Chris Heagarty

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

- 1) Reopening schools as soon as possible, as safely as possible, according to science and not politics.
- 2) Building new schools to keep pace with growth in Western Wake County and reduce overcrowding.
- 3) Improving school counseling resources for physical and mental health, and career and college preparation.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/private partnerships are crucial for providing much needed resources, support, and expertise in our schools. For example, each school relies on private business partners for their business alliances that provide important lessons for students in financial literacy, and skill building opportunities. Non-profits like WAKE Up and Read provide books to school children to build grade-level reading, while Rotary Club of Cary's teacher of the year event provides much needed recognition and support of local teachers. Larger organizations like the Cary Chamber, Wake Education Partnership and others provide vital education and advocacy about important issues of education and their intersection with other community concerns.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

As a community, response has been difficult. Shifting scientific and regulatory guidance (no masks vs. masks, lockdowns v. open with social distancing, etc.) has proven taxing for everyone and we will see the impacts for months to come. The level of

cooperation and compliance with safety protocols by members of the community has varied, and that has reduced its effectiveness.

Likewise for schools, guidance and restrictions from the state has shifted several times since schools went to remote-learning in the spring. WCPSS was unprepared to shift to virtual learning in the spring but has made great strides in the quality and rigor of the instruction it now provides and has greatly increased student access to laptop devices and wi-fi resources, better preparing us to provide remote learning when potential disasters in the future than could lead to temporary school closings.

Specific to what I would have done differently for schools, I would have liked to have had better communications, through all departments of WCPSS, and more transparency around our decision-tree process. Having better communications of plans and options, and the factors used in weighing decisions, available to the public in tools like dashboards would have helped parents, schools, and the community to provide input, understand options, and plan better together.

Rachel Mills

No information provided.

County Races

Wake County Board of Education | District 8



Steve Bergstrom

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. Quality, unbiased education - A return to educational focus on performance at all levels, teaching critical thinking, and a focus on helping every student reach their full potential.
2. Empowering families - Family engagement is the #1 indicator of educational achievement in K-12 and has long been ignored by my opponent and the current school board. The lack of a choice and the one-size-fits-all plan in the re-opening process is a perfect example of failing to engage with the families of Wake County.
3. Leadership - The lack of leadership by my opponent and this school board has been evident in the re-opening process, curriculum choices like MVP Math, callous reassignment decisions, budgetary mismanagement and so much more. I will lead, and I will engage and listen to families.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public/private partnerships are essential in providing collaborative and innovative solutions to the issues facing our community, as well as providing students with the unique understanding of what some employers and industries are looking for in their employees. My opponent and this school board are reluctant to utilize and focus on this vital partnership. The private sector sees the benefits of offering internship and job shadowing opportunities to produce a better educated future workforce. Students get real-life work experience that helps them gain a better grasp of the precise skills and education employers are looking for. These experiences prepare students to enter the workforce following graduation. In many public-private partnerships, businesses collaborate with

educators to support curriculum development and give awareness to what employers need from future employees. For example, recent studies have shown that workers have inadequate communication skills and a lack of basic math concepts (this gap is widening for Wake students that are being forced to endure MVP Math). This type of cooperation can help educators refocus teaching techniques and curriculums to better prepare students in these key areas. Businesses also may provide computer and technology-related training to educators to keep them on the cutting edge.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

Given that North Carolina is hit every so often with hurricanes and other natural disasters, one would think that education officials would have an emergency plan in place if schools were closed. They do not. Bill Fletcher, speaking for the school board, said parents should, "reflect on the complexity of creating a virtual school district in three weeks.... Rome wasn't built in a day and nor will a robust, fully functioning distance learning program be built in a day.",

It shouldn't have to be built in a day. Nor was this school board only given three weeks - they had 4 months. There should have already been a plan in place. Because there was nothing in place, and because the board failed to act from day one, we have seen the massive failures. Not the expected short-comings - the massive failures exacerbated by poor decisions. 40K Chromebooks not delivered one month into the school year. Teachers over-worked, under-trained for the virtual environment, and under-resourced. Lack of professional development to teachers to host virtual lessons or techniques for distance learning. Frankly, it's appalling teachers have not been offered this kind of training and yet are forced to sit and listen to lectures or training about agenda-driven initiatives and wonder why their students are failing. Special education children, those on IEPs, and others with needs that are being left to fend for themselves. These are all things this school board has failed to address.

County Races

Wake County Board of Education | District 8



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The question should be why wasn't there a plan in place for it in the first place? Was the lack of even the most basic plan because this board never thought it would happen on their watch? The issue is found in an apparent lack of leadership training and qualities.

There are three military veterans running for school board (Bergstrom District 8, Hahn District 2 and Moore District 5), all highly trained in disaster management and leadership. All of us have been highly critical of the lack of communication, preparation, preparedness and decisiveness displayed by the current BOE. In April, the board should have immediately begun the planning process by polling invested parties, seeking out medical expertise (and following their counsel), communicating a plan (and creating flex dates to allow for re-evaluation and adjustment), and collaborating with other districts nationwide. To this day, they have failed to do these things fully. In the meantime, other larger districts are fully re-opening with a safety plan in place. Houston is one example.

Because of this lack of leadership, families are hurting, pediatricians are warning of significant long-term damage, the achievement gap is widening, and our students are losing ground in education as well as post-graduate resumes to students in other states who are benefitting from in-person instruction. Wake County schools need to re-open for all students. More importantly, we need leadership on the school board.



Lindsay Mahaffey

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1) Safe Return to School 2) Living Wage for Classified Staff 3) Increasing Counselors

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

I find them to be very important. I enjoy attending the Chamber Education chats so that businesses can connect with our schools and learn what the workforce of tomorrow is learning today. The Wake Ed Partnership is a great partner in professional development with their Summer STEM program and their support of the arts with Pieces of Gold. The WCPSS Strategic Plan worked with the Business community to help create a profile of a Graduate.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

As a Local Education Agency, our Guidance has come from the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the NC Department of Public Instruction. Although schools closed in March, this guidance did not come out until June. The decisions made by the Board have been guided by the science and data provided by DHHS and the work with the ABC Science Collaborative. Safety of our students and staff have to be a top priority. Certainly this has been an unprecedented situation.

County Races

Wake County Board of Education | District 9



Karen Carter

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

My focus as a WCPSS School Board representative will always be on the education, academic success, and what's in the best interest of our students. Today, as we maneuver the pandemic together, my priorities are:

1. Ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our students, teachers, and school staff as we return to in-person instruction. Many are eager yet apprehensive to get back to class. As an educator and mother, I understand and recognize the need to follow all necessary safety protocols and procedures and the significant value of in-person instruction.
2. Putting the focus back on education. Whether online or in person, students must be provided a sound education with any needed academic support to help them rise to reach their maximum potential. This includes defining a structure for their chosen learning environment and clearly communicating expectations to both students and their families.
3. Giving parents, students, community members and school staff a voice. In our ever-changing environment, it's important to communicate well and communicate often. Respectful, open dialogue with parents, community members, and staff will encourage collaboration and opportunities to improve learning. I will work to help find common ground and encourage proactive communication.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

We all play an important and integral role in education in Wake County. Our students are our future lawyers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and chamber members. Partnerships with community groups and private entities is important to the foundation of our

school system. Ultimately, we both reap the rewards of a collaborative and working relationship.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

As the largest school system in North Carolina, the absence of a long-term emergency plan and clear communication was alarming. While this is an unprecedented situation, WCPSS must have a plan to mitigate the impact on education and on the operation of the system. Even though the State Board of Education's decision to eliminate student accountability impacted timelines, WCPSS did not readily make available the tools and resources required to ensure the students continued to learn. Being proactive and listening to concerns raised by families and staff about the previous semester, will help WCPSS be better prepared. Additionally, providing school staff effective professional development, setting clear expectations, and giving them the support they need in this "new normal" is crucial. Ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our students, teachers, and school staff as we return to in-person instruction is crucial. As defined in my platform, I will listen, learn, and lead to represent the needs of all students, families, and staff members.

County Races

Wake County Board of Education | District 9



Bill Fletcher

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Should you be elected to serve, what are your top 3 priorities that you plan to focus on?

1. Re-open schools safely and methodically
2. Support academic recovery strategies for all students
3. Support strategies so all children will read at or above grade level.

What do you think the function or role of public/private partnerships are? (Ex. Chambers of Commerce, Wake Education Partnership, Regional Transportation Alliance/RTA, etc)

Public Private Partnerships work best when the objectives of the school district are supported by the partner. Wake Ed Partnership is an excellent example as they support early childhood literacy, professional development for STEM teachers, honoring community members who consistently support public education. There are many opportunities in Career & Technical Education as well.

We are in a year where the importance of Disaster Preparedness and Response has been highlighted. What are your feelings on how we've responded? Would you have done anything differently?

The onset of Covid-19 changed everything. The school district moved quickly to get technology into students' hands and to assist 10,000 teachers to transition to virtual teaching and learning. The health and safety of staff and students is paramount. Resources are now in place to support more face-to-face teaching and learning. The District also created a brand new Virtual Academy program that enrolled 85,000 students. We have done much well and there is more to do.

Daniel Madding

Candidacy was withdrawn prior to publication of this Voter's Guide.

Contact

For more information please contact Perry Price.

Perry Price

Director of Education & Government Relations

Cary Chamber of Commerce

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About the Cary Chamber of Commerce

The Cary Chamber of Commerce has supported growth within the Cary business community for over 60 years. It consists of four divisions of programming that members can become involved with, including Economic Development, Education, Government Relations and Member Business Services. The Cary Chamber of Commerce has more than 1,200 members and continues to promote Cary as one of the best places to live, work and raise a family, and serves as the voice of business in Cary.

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